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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

CHINESE

GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level

Papers 8681/01 and 8681/11
Speaking

General comments

All the candidates who took part in this examination demonstrated an extremely high level of competence in spoken Mandarin. They spoke fluently and with confidence.

Centres are reminded that candidates are expected to ask questions of the Examiner in both the Topic and General Conversation sections. Marks are allocated for this activity in the Mark Scheme and are forfeited by candidates who fail to ask questions.

Paper 8681/02
Reading and Writing

General comments

Understanding of the texts

On the whole, candidates demonstrated an excellent understanding of the arguments, ideas and information contained in the two articles, and there were only a few cases where insufficient understanding of the texts caused problems.

Responding to the questions

Generally, candidates' answers were full, clearly-expressed and showed good engagement with the texts. Where there were problems, these were usually due to candidates answering questions from personal experience rather than from the information contained in the texts, or making no effort to use any of their own words, but merely copying answers straight from the texts.

Quality of language

Most candidates were able to organise the required information in their own words. However, although the quality of language was generally good, certain expressions and grammatical structures were sometimes used inappropriately.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

Many candidates scored full marks. No particular problems.

Question 2

(c) caused problems for a few candidates who did not use *dou* or *ye* in conjunction with *lian*.

Question 3

Candidates tended to cope well with these comprehension questions and no question caused any particular problems

Section 2**Question 4**

(c) was the only question to cause any particular problems. There was a tendency by weaker candidates to copy answers directly from the text or to make up answers which bore no relation to the text.

Question 5

There were some excellent answers to this question in which candidates were able to successfully summarise material from both texts and then add their own opinions. Occasionally, candidates omitted to include any information from the texts, simply giving their own opinions: such answers could not score highly.

Paper 8681/03

Essay

General comments

Candidates demonstrated the ability to write clearly on their chosen subject. Almost all candidates had a sound grasp of grammar, with a high proportion showing complete control of the Chinese language as a tool for communication. The best candidates were able to use idioms and sayings appropriately and to present arguments that were coherent and convincing. Future preparation could focus on encouraging candidates to expand their vocabulary and on teaching them how best to develop an argument.